



WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

Massachusetts – 2007

WHIP is a cost-share program that will reimburse participants up to 75 percent of the cost for planned conservation practices. Contracts are from five to 10 years in length. At least one cost-shared practice must be started within the first 12 months after signing a contract. Applications are funded on a competitive basis statewide and dependent upon available funding.

In FY 2007, Massachusetts has established the following habitats and conservation actions as priorities under WHIP:

Rivers and Streams:

- (1) Remove barriers to fish and wildlife passage (i.e., culvert replacement, dam removal, etc.)
- (2) Establish riparian buffers where none currently exist.
- (3) Installation of runoff management systems designed to prevent water quality degradation of waters designated as critical to maintaining the aquatic biodiversity of the Commonwealth.

Grasslands:

- (1) Restoration and management of grasslands for wildlife through such things as delayed mowing, strip disking, etc.
- (2) Reseeding of grasslands to native grasses and forbs

Young Forest/Shrub Land:

- (1) Restoration and management activities such as brush/tree cutting to maintain the successional stage
- (2) Create and/or widen shrubby forest/field edges through activities such as cutting and/or planting

Freshwater Wetlands (Shrub Swamps and Marshes/Wet Meadows):

- (1) Restoration and management activities such as fill removal, cutting to maintain the successional stage, etc.
- (2) Exotic invasive plant species control

Salt Marshes/Salt Ponds:

- (1) Restoration of tidal hydrology
- (2) Exotic invasive plant species control

Coastal Dunes and Beaches:

- (1) Restoration of native vegetation
- (2) Exotic invasive plant species control

Upland Forest:

- (1) Management practices for oak regeneration

Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak:

- (1) Restoration and management activities

The application process requires you to:

1. Sign up using Conservation Agreement Form CCC-1200
2. Work with NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to identify your property.
3. Work with NRCS and FSA to determine participant eligibility.
4. Work with NRCS to evaluate your property and develop a Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

For more information contact NRCS at the following USDA service centers:

Barnstable	270 Communications Way, Unit 1G, Hyannis, MA 02601	508-771-6476
Greenfield	55 Federal Street, Rm 290 Greenfield, MA 01301	413-772-0384 ext. 3
Hadley	195 Russell Street, Suite B6, Hadley, MA 01035	413-585-1000 ext. 3
Holden	52 Boyden Road, Room 10, Holden, MA 01520	508-829-4477 ext. 3
Pittsfield	78 Center Street, Suite 206, Pittsfield, MA 01201	413-443-1776 ext. 3
Westford	319 Littleton Road, Suite 205 Westford, MA 01886	978-692-1904 ext. 3
West Wareham	15 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576	508-295-5151 ext. 2

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